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Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC(ENDICOTT, IRVING EUGENE)

SUBJECT: W/W: ARRESTS: CASE OF IRVING EUGENE ENDICOTT

REF: BOGOTA NO. 5709; STATE 144555, 136841 AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO REPLY TO STATE 144555. DEPARTMENT INTERESTED IN TREATMENT OF IRVING EUGENE ENDICOTT IN PRISON AS WELL AS HIS HEALTH.

2. IN VIEW YET ANOTHER FAILURE BY REPLACEMENT ATTORNEY TO APPEAR FOR TRIAL, DEPARTMENT REVIEWED RECORD OF ENDICOTT CASE. AS EMBASSY MAY RECALL, ARREST ON AUGUST 28, 1974 BECAME KNOWN TO FAMILY THROUGH FRIEND AND THROUGH COLLECT CABLE FROM FIRST ATTORNEY ON AUGUST 31 REQUESTING MONEY. DEPARTMENT SENT A CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST INQUIRY TELEGRAM AUGUST 30, 1974, TO WHICH EMBASSY DID NOT REPLY UNTIL SEPTEMBER 5 WITH DATA FROM POLICE BLOTTER.

3. REPORTING SINCE ARREST HAS BEEN ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY BASED ON SEVEN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM DEPARTMENT,MOST OF
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THEM CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST (SENATOR JACKSON AND CONGRESSMAN PRITCHARD).

4. ENDICOTT'S UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE WITH EXPENSIVE LAWYERS

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WHO HAVE LIED TO COURT OR WHO FAIL TO APPEAR FOR TRIALS
HAS NOT BEEN HELPFUL TO ACCOMPLISHMENT OF EMBASSY'S RESPON-
SIBILITIES TO ENSURE THAT HE HAS PROMPT, FAIR AND COMPETENT
TRIAL. PRESUMABLY RAFAEL CURE, LIKE MARTINEZ, IS NOT ON
EMBASSY'S LIST OF LAWYERS. DEPARTMENT HOPES THEY BOTH ON
EMBASSY'S CAUTION LIST. THEIR ANTICS MAY HAVE UNFAIRLY
JEOPARDIZED ENDICOTT'S CASE.

5. DECISION CONCERNING RESPONSIBLE LEGAL COUNSEL IS, OF
COURSE, ENTIRELY UP TO ENDICOTT. POST'S OPINION OF BEST
LEGAL STRATEGY FOR ENDICOTT SHOULD NOT IMPEDE PROMPT
ACTION IN OFFERING HIM CHOICE OF GOOD LEGAL COUNSEL.
RECOMMEND VISIT WITH ENDICOTT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO
CONSULT ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF LEGAL COUNSEL AND, AS
MENTIONED, TO REPORT ON PRISON TREATMENT.

6. SINCE DRAFTING ABOVE, DEPARTMENT HAS BECOME AWARE OF
ANOTHER ENDICOTT LETTER TO PARENTS REPORTING THAT HE HAS
BEEN THE VICTIM OF SEVERAL BEATINGS AND OTHER ABUSE
AT THE HANDS OF NON-AMERICAN REPEAT NON-AMERICAN
PRISONERS. HE ALSO STATES HE HAS BEEN ROBBED SEVERAL
TIMES. ENDICOTT REPORTS THAT ALL AMERICANS DETAINED
AT BARRANQUILLA HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR BAD TREATMENT AT THE
HANDS OF COLOMBIAN PRISONERS AND THAT TENSION IS
MOUNTING TO DANGER POINT. IN SEPARATE LETTER TO FRIENDS
IN US, ENDICOTT REPORTS THAT HE HAS BEEN THE VICTIM
OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ABOUT WHICH HE DID NOT WISH TO INFORM
HIS PARENTS.

7. REQUEST CONOFF VISIT BARRANQUILLA ON URGENT BASIS
AND DETERMINE WELFARE AND CONDITIONS OF IMPRISONMENT FOR
AMERICANS HELD THERE. ARRANGE MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR
ENDICOTT OR OTHERS IF NECESSARY. REPORT RESULTS ASAP.

8. CONGRESSMAN JOEL PRITCHARD AND SENATOR JACKSON
EXPRESSING CONTINUING INTEREST. KISSINGER
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